

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Harris is next.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I think you all recall Will Rogers' statement, I do not belong to any organized party, I am a Democrat. And while there may be some merit to Senator DeCamp's idea, I know that within the Democratic Party we have had a candidate, George McGovern, who is considered quite liberal. We've had a candidate, President Harry Truman, who was not considered liberal. The Republican Party had Nelson Rockefeller who was not considered a conservative and the Republican party has had President Ronald Reagan who is a conservative. So, if we were to adopt Senator DeCamp's idea, then I do not see that the public would have a true choice in the primary because not all Democrats are liberals or conservatives, some of them are moderates, and not all Republicans are considered liberals, conservatives or moderates. So I think it is more fair that the people have the choice, no matter which party they belong to, to choose that candidate that best reflects their own political philosophy because as I have stated, within both parties you do have liberals and you do have conservatives. So the public would have the short end of the stick there. They really wouldn't have the chance to do what I hear so frequently, I vote for the person and not for the party, and I think in this instance when it comes to the primary, they like the choice of whether they want to vote for a conservative, a liberal or a moderate of either party. Therefore, I would also have to oppose Senator DeCamp's proposal. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think so far in the discussion we have not been looking at what is potentially an undemocratic resolution of the primary in that we might have a 20 or 25 percent vote getter in the primary actually be the nominee of the party. I don't see anything wrong with the concept that Senator DeCamp has put forward, that we do have a runoff, that we have the majority candidate of a particular party as the representative of that party. I think the people are the ones that gain in that process. There will have to be a little more involvement on the people's part, on the supporter's part, on the contributor's part, but I think the